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A Survey on "The Awarness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Among Research Scholar of Sambalpur University"

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ABSTRACT

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are essential for protecting intellectual creations, promoting innovation, and ensuring ethical research practices in higher education. However, the extent to which research scholars understand and apply IPR provisions remains a significant concern. The present study examines the awareness, knowledge, perceptions, and practical engagement with Intellectual Property Rights among research scholars of Sambalpur University, Odisha. A descriptive survey research design was adopted, and primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire from 67 research scholars representing diverse academic disciplines. The collected data were analysed using descriptive statistical techniques, including frequencies and percentages. The findings reveal that 86.6% of respondents had heard of IPR, while 59.7% recognized its importance; however, 37.3% remained uncertain about its significance. Regarding the identification of protectable intellectual property, 58.2% recognized logos and brand names, 53.7% identified products and inventions, and 46.3% recognized books and musical compositions as protectable intellectual assets. Despite this general awareness, practical engagement with IPR remains limited, with only 22.4% of respondents reporting previous IPR registration, compared with 77.6% who had never registered their intellectual property. Furthermore, the IPR knowledge assessment recorded an average score of 50.1%, revealing substantial gaps in the understanding of patents, trademarks, and other legal protections. Regarding awareness-enhancement strategies, 71.6% of respondents favoured public awareness programmes, while 65.7% supported educational campaigns. The findings indicate a considerable disparity between general awareness and comprehensive IPR literacy among research scholars. The study emphasizes the need for structured IPR education, regular training programmes, and effective institutional support mechanisms to strengthen intellectual property protection and promote ethical and innovative research practices within the university.

Keywords: Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), IPR Awareness, Research Scholars, IPR Literacy, Sambalpur University, Intellectual Property Protection, Research Ethics, Patent, Copyright, Trademark.

Introduction:-

Intellectual property (IP) is defined as the works of the human mind, such as inventions, literary works, artistic works, and scientific discoveries. Just as physical property has legal protection, intellectual property too has legal protections, which are important for ensuring creativity and innovation. The

importance of intellectual property is also demonstrated by the fact that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) was established in 1967 by the United Nations. WIPO was established to raise awareness of intellectual property rights, promote international cooperation in their protection, and assist in the enforcement of rights across the globe. Through WIPO's efforts, nations from across the globe collaborate to advance and protect intellectual property rights, ensuring that innovators and creators are adequately recognized and rewarded for their efforts.

Intellectual property is generated through four main areas: literature, science, the arts, and industry. The outputs of these disciplines hold significant economic and cultural value, and thus, the protection of IP is necessary not just for creators but for the economy itself. For instance, patents and scientific breakthroughs propel technological developments, while trademarks and copyrights guard the work of authors, artists, and enterprises. By knowing intellectual property, we not only realize it's worth but also ensure that IP is utilized correctly and shielded from improper exploitation.

This research is concerned with exploring the awareness of intellectual property rights by university students, a major population for the present research. Since students are often engaged in scholarly and creative work, they are constantly exposed to different types of intellectual property, either through studies, writing, or other creative works. Educating students on the importance of intellectual property rights is vital to make them appreciate the value of safeguarding their own works as well as realizing the possible repercussions of violating other people's intellectual properties. In addition, knowledge of why it is necessary to prevent IP infringement is important for developing ethics in academic and creative circles, where misappropriation of intellectual properties could produce serious legal and image repercussions. The goal of this research is to provide input into the deeper understanding of intellectual property, protection, and respect for the creators' rights within the context of the university.

Literature Review:-

E. Tsvetkova & et al. (2021) in his article emphasized the increasing significance of information literacy, media literacy, and intellectual property (IP) literacy in higher education. It stresses that students need to learn not only how to obtain information but also its legal and ethical dimensions, particularly IP rights. The article suggested a bibliographic method for structuring IP literacy materials and emphasizes the responsibility of university curricula in promoting innovative thinking, critical analysis, and management of knowledge. Finally, it suggests an educational framework for improving these skills.

Sivasubramaniam & et al. (2012), investigated at the awareness and attitudes of university students toward Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), specifically in the areas of plagiarism, piracy, and copyright violation. The results show that students are aware of the ethical concerns of piracy and plagiarism, which are mostly associated with the availability of pirated content. The research postulates that more IPR consciousness through education, government action, and university campaigns can promote respect for intellectual work. Respondents noted the importance of improved access to affordable legal services. Although this study targeted two private universities in Malaysia, it calls for subsequent studies comparing awareness of IPR across various institutions.

According to Ahmed S (2017) investigated the awareness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among postgraduate students and research scholars at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. The study found a serious ignorance in fair use of copyrighted work and patents in research. Considering these findings, the study suggests increasing IPR education in the form of seminars, workshops, and IPR courses as compulsory courses in postgraduate and Ph.D. programs. It also recommends imparting hands-on

knowledge on plagiarism and the effects of IPR infringement, and incorporating a complete IPR curriculum on trademarks, patents, designs, and copyrights in research studies.

Seena P (2024), highlighted the importance of knowledge, attitudes, and seminar or workshop participation in increasing awareness of Intellectual Property (IP) rights among college faculty. Results indicate gaps in interaction with IP laws, where positive attitudes and active participation greatly increased awareness, pointing to the necessity of ongoing educational programs to promote innovation and intellectual contribution protection.

Min Seok Mok (2010) studied the significance of intellectual property (IP) education and its maximization using conjoint analysis. The results indicate that fees for education are the most important consideration for both public and private universities, with respondents preferring lower fees. University staff members, however, value the content of lectures, specifically the use of IP processes that are specific to their work. The research recommends that IP education must be customized according to various institutional requirements and highlights the necessity for continuous monitoring as the education system develops.

Swinson (2000) provides an overview about Intellectual Property Rights and discussed the various types of IPR. Further, this paper highlighted intellectual property as an important asset to protect intangible property of human being. Focusing on four issues of IP in the field of teaching and learning environment in Australia, author elaborated the effect of IPR in academic environment.

Garmon (2002) explains the concept of IPR by providing an outline of historical development of Intellectual Property Rights in Western countries. The study discusses various issues and challenges raised due to policies of IPR and also highlights the importance of IPR and its role in protection of new knowledge; sanction of rights against unauthorized use intellectual property. It also elaborates various issues such as social, cultural and impact of technological and communication developments on securing IPR.

Paranjpe et al. (2017) explain the concept of Intellectual Property Rights with detailed description of four forms of IPR i.e. Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks and Trade secrets. Depending of nature, new inventions and ideas are protected under different forms of protection laws. This study emphasized on implementation of strong legal protection under IPRs laws to safeguard human creativity.

Hossain (2018) explains about basic concepts of Intellectual Property Rights, definition of IPR; types of IPR and publication ethics in terms of Intellectual Property Rights. This paper emphasized that IPRs protect various forms of human intellectual property and journals should have proper protection policy of IPRs to avoid plagiarism. This paper also throws light on issues related to literary works such as licensing issues; fair use; validity of IPRs and impact of creative common (CC) in journal publication, etc.

Research Gap:-

Despite the growing significance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in academic and research settings, especially in a knowledge-driven economy, there remains a noticeable gap in IPR awareness among research scholars in Indian universities. Various national policies and institutional initiatives have been introduced to promote IPR literacy, yet their effectiveness at the grassroots level—particularly among scholars pursuing advanced research—has not been adequately studied.

Existing literature largely focuses on general IPR knowledge among students, faculty members, or industry professionals, with limited emphasis on research scholars as a distinct group. Furthermore, while some studies address IPR awareness at national or regional levels, very few explore the specific context of state universities such as Sambalpur University, which has a diverse mix of faculties and research programs.

There is also a lack of empirical data that measures not just basic awareness, but also the depth of understanding, sources of information, perceived relevance of IPR, and practical engagement with IPR processes among research scholars.Additionally, no comprehensive survey has been conducted to evaluate the role of university-level support systems—such as IPR cells, workshops, or institutional policies—in shaping the IPR literacy of research scholars at Sambalpur University. This creates a significant gap in both academic knowledge and policy development.

Significance of the study: -

The awareness and understanding of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among research scholars are critical in promoting ethical research practices, protecting innovative ideas, and fostering a culture of respect for intellectual contributions. This study focuses on research scholars at Sambalpur University and aims to assess their level of awareness and knowledge of IPR. The significance of this study lies in its potential to:

1. Highlight gaps in IPR awareness among emerging researchers.
2. Inform university policymakers and academic institutions about the need for IPR education and training programs.
3. Encourage the integration of IPR literacy into academic curricula and research methodology courses.
4. Contribute to the broader goal of strengthening India's innovation ecosystem by ensuring that researchers are equipped to protect and manage their intellectual creations.
5. By identifying the current status of IPR awareness, this study seeks to promote more responsible research practices and support the development of a more informed and legally aware academic community.

Objectives of the study: -

- To evaluate the awareness of IPR concepts among research scholars at Sambalpur University.
- To assess the level of IPR literacy of the research scholars
- To examine the challenges scholars face in understanding and applying IPR laws.

Research Methodology for this study: -

This study employs a survey method to systematically collect data from research scholars at Sambalpur University regarding their awareness, challenges, and experiences related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). The survey method is appropriate for gathering primary data on perceptions, attitudes, and institutional influences across a broad respondent base. The target population consists of research scholars currently enrolled in various postgraduate departments at Sambalpur University.A structured questionnaire was used as the primary data collection tool.

The questionnaire was including the following sections aligned with the study objectives:

- Section A: Demographic profile (e.g., department, year of research, gender).
- Section B: Awareness of IPR concepts (e.g., copyright, patents, plagiarism, licensing).
- Section C: Challenges faced in understanding or applying IPR laws.
- Section D: Awareness and perception of university policies or initiatives on IPR.
- Section E: Suggestions and opinions on improving IPR awareness and integration into academic research.

Most questions were close-ended, using multiple-choice, and multiple options, with a few open-ended items to gather qualitative insights.

The questionnaire was distributed in both online and offline modes, depending on accessibility and preference. Online surveys were administered using platforms like Google Forms, while printed copies will be circulated for departments with limited digital access. Participation will be voluntary, and responses will be collected over a period of 4–6 weeks.

For this study, a stratified random sampling technique was employed to ensure representation from various academic departments and disciplines within Sambalpur University. Research scholars were categorized based on their faculty (e.g., Science & Technology, Arts & Humanities, Business & Management, etc.), and participants were randomly selected from each category to obtain a balanced and representative sample.

The sample size for the survey consisted of 60-80 research scholars, which was determined based on the availability of scholars, time constraints, and the goal of achieving a diverse cross-section of respondents. This sample size is considered sufficient to draw meaningful insights into the level of IPR awareness among the research community at the university. Quantitative data collected through the survey will be analysed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean) to assess overall trends, to explore relationships across variables such as discipline or year of study. Basic thematic categorization applied to open-ended responses for qualitative interpretation.

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and increasing reliance on data-driven decision-making, the importance of systematic analysis cannot be overstated. Analysis serves as a critical tool for interpreting complex information, identifying patterns, and drawing meaningful conclusions. By applying both qualitative and quantitative methods, using the 67 responses from scholar among various departments of Sambalpur University. So we will examine the data below and interprete.

Data Analysis and interpretation: -

Age Group	Number of Responses	Percentage
18-24	7	10.40%
25-34	57	85.10%
35-44	3	4.50%
45 and above	0	0%

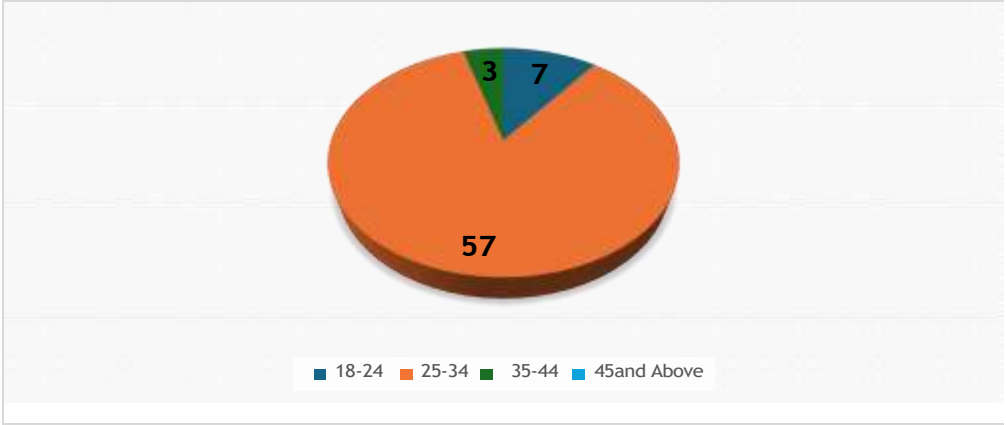


Fig-1 Age group distribution respondents

The pie chart represents the age distribution of 67 respondents in the survey's general information section. The majority fall within the 25-34 age group (85.1%), followed by 10.4% in the 18-24 group, and a small 4.5% in the 35-44 group. Interestingly, there are no respondents aged 45 and above. This distribution suggests that the survey predominantly engaged younger adults, particularly those in their late twenties and early thirties. The absence of older respondents might indicate limited outreach to them or their lower participation in the survey. This could be an area to explore further in terms of targeted engagement strategies.

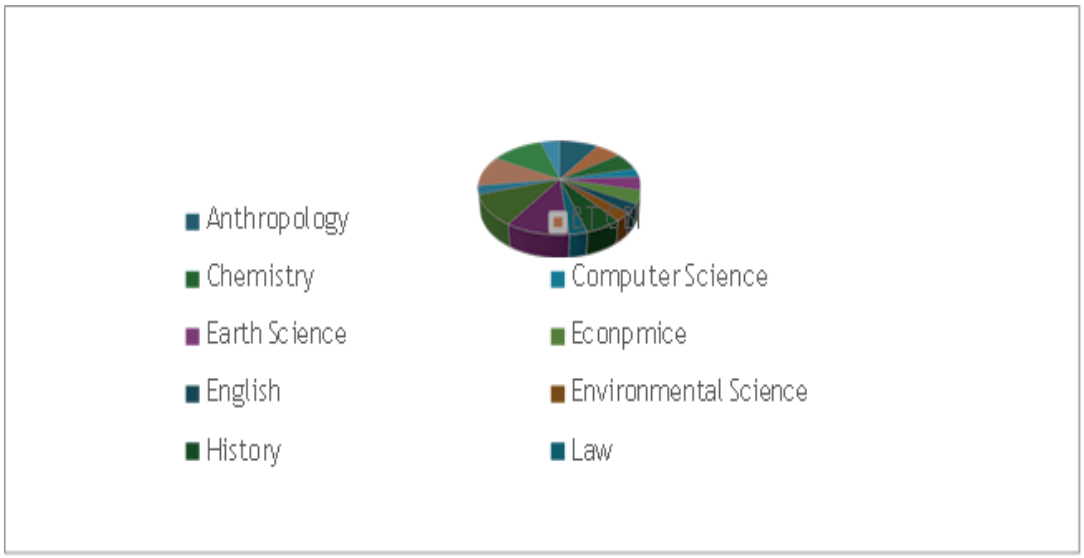


Fig-2 Department wise research scholar

Table-2: Department wise distribution of research scholar

Name of Department	Research scholar
Anthropology	6
BT & BI	4
Chemistry	4
Computer Science	2
Earth Science	3
Economics	3
English	2
Environmental Science	2
History	4
Law	2
Library and information science	7
Life Science	7
MBA	2
Odia	7
Physics	8
Political Science	3

Table 2 presents the department-wise distribution of 66 research scholars from 16 departments of Sambalpur University. The highest representation is observed in the Department of Physics, with 8 scholars (12.12%), followed by Library and Information Science, Life Science, and Odia, each contributing 7 scholars (10.61%). Anthropology accounts for 6 scholars (9.09%), while BT & BI, Chemistry, and History represent 4 scholars each (6.06%). Earth Science, Economics, and Political Science contribute 3 scholars each (4.55%). Computer Science, English, Environmental Science, Law, and MBA have the lowest representation, with 2 scholars each (3.03%). The inclusion of scholars from diverse academic disciplines provides a broad basis for examining IPR awareness across different fields of research. However, the table reflects only the distribution of respondents and does not directly indicate their actual level of IPR awareness.

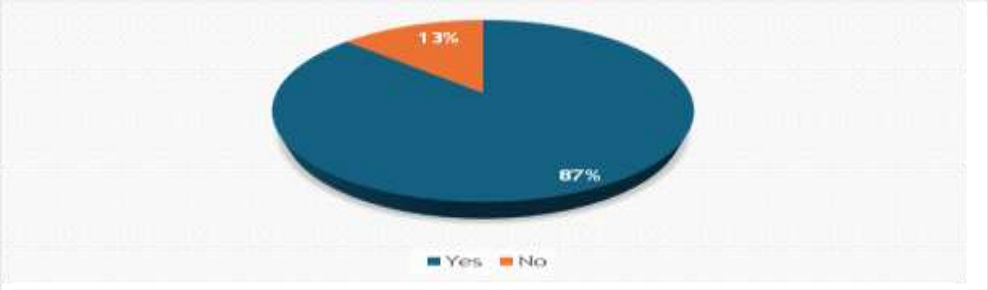


Fig 3 Awareness on Intellectual Property Rights

The fig.3 pie chart illustrates awareness of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among survey respondents. A significant majority—86.6%—have heard of IPR, while 13.4% have not. This indicates that intellectual property awareness is relatively strong within the surveyed group, which may be due to effective outreach efforts, educational initiatives, or direct professional relevance. However, the presence of respondents unfamiliar with IPR highlights the need for continued awareness campaigns to bridge knowledge gaps, ensuring individuals understand the importance of intellectual property protection and its role in fostering innovation.

Table 4: Perception on importance of IPR

Response	Number of Response	Percentage
Yes	**40**	**59.70%**
No	**2**	**3%**
Not Sure	**25**	**37%**

The table 4 suggest that a majority of respondents (59.7%) recognize the importance of Intellectual Property Rights for creators and businesses. This indicates a strong awareness of the role these protections play in fostering innovation and safeguarding intellectual assets. However, a significant portion (37.3%) remains uncertain, which highlights a potential gap in understanding or exposure to intellectual property concepts. A small minority (3%) does not consider Intellectual Property Rights important, which could stem from a lack of awareness or differing perspectives on ownership and innovation. These findings emphasize the need for targeted educational initiatives to improve awareness and clarify the impact of intellectual property protections.

The figure 5 indicate varied perceptions of what can be protected by Intellectual Property Rights. The highest recognition is for logos or brand names (58.2%) and products or inventions (53.7%), suggesting strong awareness of trademarks and patents. A book or music composition (46.3%) also holds significant recognition, reflecting understanding of copyright protection. However, fewer respondents (26.9%) consider software programs as protectable, which may indicate gaps in knowledge regarding software patents and copyrights. Recipes (7.5%) are the least recognized category, possibly due to confusion about trade secrets versus patentability. Interestingly, 9% of respondents selected "None of the above," signaling either misunderstanding or skepticisms about intellectual property protections. These findings highlight the need for educational outreach to clarify the scope of intellectual property rights.

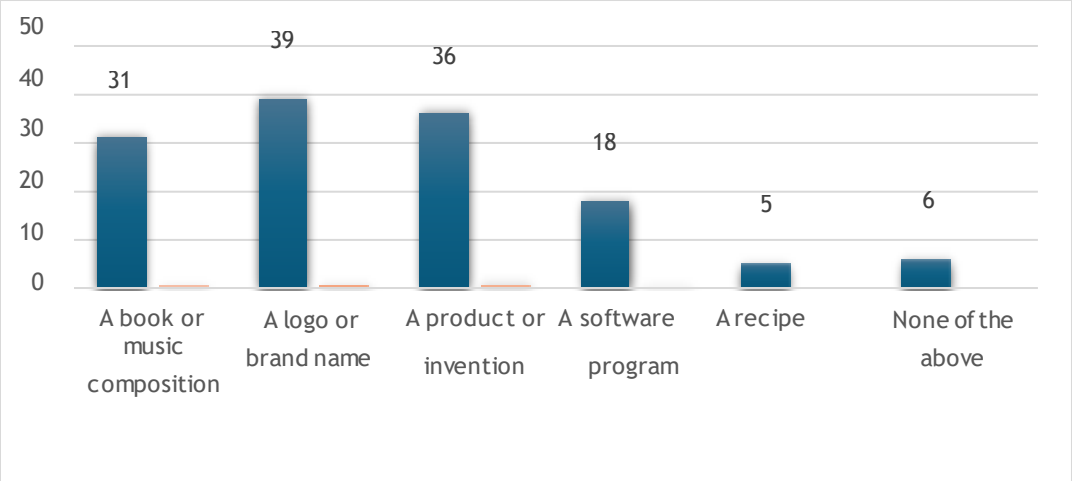


Fig 5 Protection of IPR

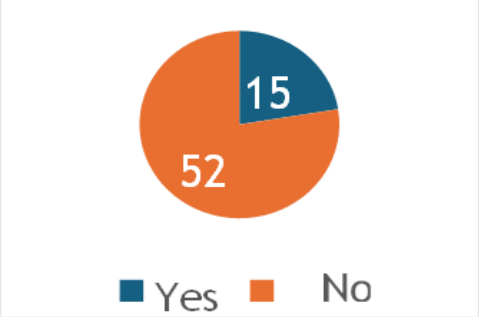


Fig 6 Registered For IPR

Response	Number of Response	Percentage
Yes	15	22.40%
No	52	77.60

TABLE 6: Registered for IPR

The survey in table 6 results reveal that only a small fraction of respondents (10.4%) have applied for or registered intellectual property, such as copyrights, patents, or trademarks. In contrast, the vast majority (89.6%) have never engaged in such registrations, indicating limited personal experience with intellectual property protections. This suggests a significant gap in engagement, possibly due to a lack of awareness, resources, or perceived necessity. The findings highlight the need for educational initiatives and accessible

guidance to encourage individuals and businesses to explore intellectual property registration.

The figure 7 below examines respondents' awareness of Intellectual Property rights. Out of 60 responses, the majority (76.7%) reported having heard about Intellectual Property rights, indicating a broad awareness among the group. However, 15% stated they had never heard of IP rights, suggesting gaps in knowledge that could be addressed through targeted education. Meanwhile, 8.3% of respondents were unsure, highlighting further uncertainty. The results indicate that while general awareness of Intellectual Property rights exists, educational outreach efforts could focus on clarifying misconceptions and improving understanding among those who are uninformed or uncertain.

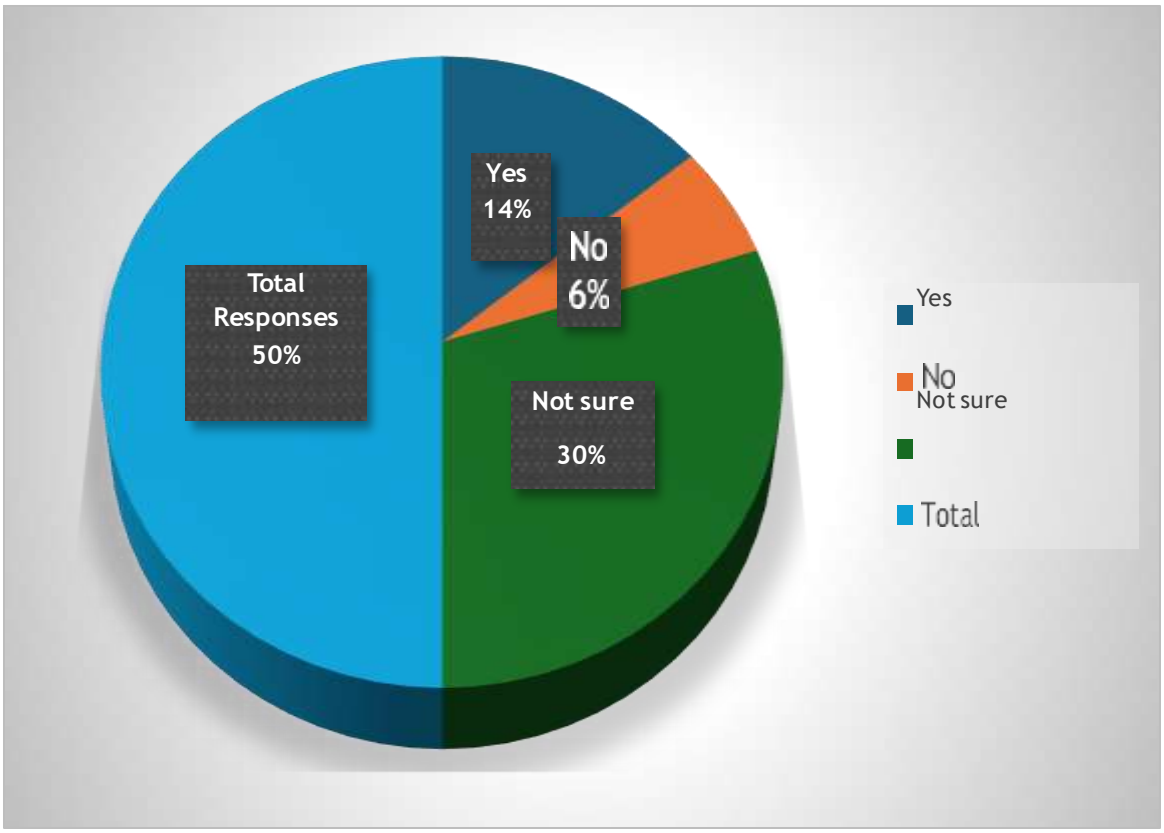


Fig-7Awareness Levels of IPR

Response	**Number of Responses**	**Percentage**
Yes	46	76.70%
No	9	15%
Not sure	5	8.30%
Total Responses	**60**	**100%**

Table-8: Consider applying for IPR

The table8 above explain how many are planning to take Intellectual Property protection in the future. Out of 67 responses, the majority (59.7%) were unsure, indicating uncertainty about the necessity or process of IP registration. 28.4% of respondents expressed a willingness to apply for IP protection, showing a proactive approach towards safeguarding their creations or innovations. Meanwhile, 11.9% stated they

would not consider applying, which may suggest a lack of interest, awareness, or perceived need for such protections. The high percentage of undecided respondents highlights the potential for educational initiatives to improve understanding and awareness of intellectual property rights.

How do Awareness of Intellectual Property Rights can be improved?

Method	**Number of Responses**	**Percentage**
Public Awareness Programs	48	71.60%
Educational Campaigns	44	65.70%
Government Initiatives and Support	30	44.80%
Promoting International IPR Awareness	26	38.80%
Use of social media and Online Platforms	24	35.80%
IPR Consultation Services	19	28.40%
Engaging with Industry and Entrepreneurs	18	26.90%
Encouraging IPR Registration	10	14.90%
Providing Case Studies and Success Stories	2	3%

Table 9: Improvement of IPR

The survey 9 results indicate the most preferred methods for enhancing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) awareness. Among 67 responses, the highest support was for public awareness programs (71.6%), highlighting the importance of broad community outreach. Educational campaigns ranked second at 65.7%, showing strong demand for structured learning opportunities. Government initiatives and support garnered 44.8%, suggesting trust in policy-driven measures for improving awareness. Other effective methods include promoting international IPR awareness (38.8%) and leveraging social media and online platforms (35.8%) for digital engagement. IPR consultation services (28.4%) and industry engagement (26.9%) received moderate endorsement, reflecting interest in expert guidance and collaborations. On the lower end, encouraging IPR registration (14.9%) and providing case studies and success stories (3%) were the least chosen methods, indicating a preference for broader outreach over specific registration-based approaches. Overall, a combination of awareness programs, education, and government-driven efforts appears to be the best strategy for improving IPR understanding.

Importance of protecting IPR in digital age?

Response	**Number of Responses**	**Percentage**
Very Important	27	40.30%
Somewhat Important	31	46.30%
Not Important	3	4.50%
Not Sure	6	9%

TABLE 10: Importance of protecting IPR in digital age

The table 10 presents opinions on the importance of protecting intellectual property in the digital age.

Among 67 respondents, 40.3% rated it as *very important*, 46.3% considered it *somewhat important*, while a small portion (4.5%) found it *not important*, and 9% remained *unsure*. The majority consensus favours intellectual property protection, indicating widespread recognition of its significance in the digital era.

IPR Quiz

As part of our project work, an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) awareness quiz was conducted among research scholars of Sambalpur University. The primary objective was to assess and enhance the understanding of IPR concepts, with a specific focus on the guidelines and frameworks established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). A total of 67 research scholars actively participated in the quiz, reflecting their interest and growing awareness about the importance of protecting intellectual creations. The quiz served as a tool to promote knowledge about patents, copyrights, trademarks, and other key components of IPR, which are essential for academic and research communities.

TABLE 11: Intellectual property quiz

Sl.No.	Question	Correct Answer	Responses (N=67)	Percentage
1	What protects the intellectual property created by artis	Copyright	50	74.6%
2	What protects the intellectual property created by designers?	Registered Designs	37	55.2%
3	What protects the intellectual property created by inventors?	Patents	20	29.9%
4	Which of these is a geographical indication?	Champagnes	56	83.%
5	What does a trademark protect?	Names and brands	13	19.4%
6	In most countries, how long does copyright last for?	50 years after the death Of the person who created that work	33	49.3%
7	How long do patents usually last for?	20 years	56	83.6%
8	If you write an original story, what type of intellectual property gives you the right to decide who can make and sell copies of your work?	Copyright	30	44.8%
9	Imagine a sports team sets up a company to sell its own range of clothes. What type of intellectual property can the team use to show that the clothes are made by them?	Trademark	13	19.4%
10	If a company develops a new technology that improves its main	Patents	28	41.8%

	product, what type of intellectual property can they use to stop others from copying their invention?			
Mean	**50.1%**			

Table 11 listing quiz questions related to intellectual property .The table includes ten questions, each associated with a correct answer, the number of respondents who selected it, and the percentage of correct responses.The data highlights varying levels of understanding among respondents regarding intellectual property protections. Some questions, such as patents (29.9%) and trademarks (19.4%), show lower recognition compared to others, indicating potential knowledge gaps. Notably, questions regarding geographical indications (Champagne - 83.6%) and patent duration (20 years - 83.6%) demonstrate strong respondent awareness, suggesting familiarity with well-known intellectual property concepts. However, misconceptions persist, particularly concerning trademarks and registered designs, with some respondents incorrectly associating patents with branding rather than technological innovation. The average Mean value 50.1% correct responses reflect that half of the students are not aware about different aspects of IPR.These findings underscore the need for targeted educational outreach to improve comprehension of intellectual property categories and their applications. Strengthening awareness through workshops and structured learning initiatives could help mitigate confusion while fostering informed engagement with intellectual property protections.

Scope, limitation and conclusion: -

The study focuses specifically on the awareness and understanding of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among research scholars at Sambalpur University.It aims to assess the level of knowledge, sources of information, and attitudes of scholars toward various components of IPR, such as patents, copyrights, trademarks, and plagiarism.The study includes all academic departments and disciplines under Sambalpur University, covering scholars in science, arts, commerce, law, engineering, and other faculties.It also explores the availability of IPR-related resources, training programs, and institutional support at the university level.The survey is intended to provide data-driven recommendations for enhancing IPR literacy and promoting ethical research practices.The study is limited to research scholars of Sambalpur University and does not include undergraduate or non-research students.It relies on self-reported data through surveys, which may involve biases or inaccuracies in responses.The awareness level may vary significantly between departments, but the study may not capture department-specific interventions or curricula in depth.Time and resource constraints may limit the sample size, affecting generalizability to the entire student population.The study does not evaluate the actual application or enforcement of IPR knowledge in research work—only the perceived or reported awareness.the major findings of this study are as follows:-

1. **General Awareness of IPR:**
   - A majority (73.33%) of respondents are aware of the term IPR.
   - 61.67% of respondents learned about IPR through the internet, indicating self-directed learning rather than institutional education.
2. **Level of IPR Literacy:**
   - Only 26.67% are fully aware of copyright, 28.33% of trademark, and 20% of patent laws.
   - 56.67% of respondents reported only *partial* awareness of IPR, suggesting that while they recognize

IPR, they lack detailed understanding.

3. **Application and Usage of IPR:**
   - Despite partial awareness, 46.67% believe IPR is applicable in research, while 30% are unsure about its relevance.
   - Very few respondents have actually filed or attempted to file for IPR protection for their work.
4. **Challenges in Understanding and Application:**
   - The biggest hurdles reported are lack of institutional training and complex legal language associated with IPR laws.
   - 66.67% of respondents believe that the university does not conduct adequate awareness programs.
5. **University's Role in Promoting IPR:**
   - Although Sambalpur University provides basic information through coursework or notices, it lacks structured, consistent IPR training sessions.
   - Most respondents suggest the university should take more proactive steps in fostering IPR education and practical guidance.

To strengthen awareness and practical knowledge of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among academic researchers, a multifaceted approach is essential. One effective strategy involves organizing regular seminars, workshops, and webinars tailored to the needs of researchers, with a focus on practical aspects such as filing patents, copyrights, and trademarks. Integrating IPR education into the academic curriculum is equally important; a compulsory module for research scholars, particularly in M. Phil and Ph.D. programs, can ensure foundational understanding. Establishing a dedicated IPR Cell within universities would further enhance support by offering guidance on managing intellectual property, monitoring plagiarism, promoting ethical research practices, and providing one-on-one consultations. Additionally, developing accessible learning resources including handbooks and e-modules can simplify complex legal frameworks and empower scholars to navigate IPR independently. Finally, collaboration with legal experts, such as IPR lawyers and patent office officials, can bring valuable real-world perspectives and bridge the gap between theory and practice. Together, these initiatives form a comprehensive framework for fostering a robust culture of intellectual property awareness in academia.

The study concludes that while research scholars at Sambalpur University are generally aware of IPR, their depth of understanding and ability to apply IPR knowledge in practice is limited. There exists a substantial gap between awareness and application. Institutional support plays a critical role in bridging this gap, and currently, the university's efforts in promoting IPR literacy are perceived as inadequate. To foster a robust research environment that respects and protects intellectual contributions, Sambalpur University must implement targeted interventions, including training, policy development, and the establishment of support structures. Addressing these issues can lead to greater innovation, ethical research practices, and enhanced academic contributions by scholar.

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